

Remarks

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Application in light of the Office Action dated April 16, 2002. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-9, 12-16, 18-35, 37-42, and 44-63 were pending. The Examiner rejected Claims 1-16, 18-33, 35, 38-40, 42-47, and 58-63. The Examiner objected to Claims 34, 36-37, 41, 48-49, and 51-57. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Claims

The Examiner indicates that Claims 34, 36-37, 41, 48-49, and 51-56 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Detailed Action ¶ 13). Applicants thank the Examiner for this finding.¹

Unspecified Rejections

While the Examiner indicates that Claims 21-22 are rejected, (Office Action Summary ¶ 6), the Examiner provides no statutory basis or reasoning for the rejection, (Detailed Action ¶¶ 1-14). Thus, Applicants are left with no way to meaningfully respond to the rejection of these claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to either provide a statutory basis and reasoning for rejecting Claims 21-22 or allow these claims.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 11-12, 16, 18-20, 23, 30-31, and 63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,765,140 issued to Knudson, et al. (*Knudson*). (Detailed Action ¶¶ 2, 12). Applicants, however, disagree with these rejections.²

To anticipate a claim, a reference must teach every limitation of the claim. (M.P.E.P. § 2131). Thus, if a claim contains at least one limitation that a reference does not teach, the reference cannot anticipate the claim.

¹ Applicants note that they canceled Claim 36 in the Request for Continued Examination mailed March 27, 2002.

Knudson discloses a dynamic project management system that includes a server network and a master database. (Abstract). The network may be configured for translating a project plan that includes a plurality of tasks to be performed by users of the network into the master database to affect an assignments table. (Id.). The assignments table includes a list of project tasks assigned for completion by each of the users. (Id.). Furthermore, project managers may periodically track and control project progress in accordance with "the previously defined time schedules." (col. 7, lines 40–46). This project progress is tracked by using a list of project tasks assigned for completion in the assignments table in the master database and the time expended by each user. (col. 6, lines 4–11). The assignments table lists "assigned tasks for one or more projects for each of the identified users." (col. 6, lines 12–14). *Knudson* further describes the assignments table as being used "for assigning project tasks to users identified by their user profiles, which may be updated to "adjust assigned tasks and time schedules as required for the various identified users." (col. 6, lines 31–32; col. 7, lines 40–47).

Claim 1, however, is an independent claim containing limitations that *Knudson* does not teach. Among other limitations, Claim 1, as amended, recites "a tactic table operable to store at least one predefined tactic supported by the program office database and a tactic type for each tactic, wherein the predefined tactic prescribes a change to a project." *Knudson* fails to teach these limitations because its revised project plans are created by a user. (col. 7, lines 40–47). Thus, the revised project plans would not be created, at least in part, by a tactic table having a predefined tactic prescribing a change to a project, much less a tactic type for each tactic. Thus, *Knudson* fails to teach these limitations.

Applicants do note the Examiner's assertion that *Knudson* teaches such limitations. (Detailed Action ¶ 2). However, the portions of *Knudson* upon which the Examiner relies merely teaches translating a project plan into a database to effect an assignments table including a list of project tasks assigned for completion by each of said users. (col. 11, lines 38–40, col. 12). Thus, *Knudson* fails to teach or suggest "a tactic table operable to store at least one predefined tactic supported by the program office database and a tactic type for each tactic, wherein the predefined tactic prescribes a change to a project."

² Applicants note that they canceled Claim 11 in the Request for Continued Examination mailed

Applicants also note the Examiner's previous assertion that *Knudson* teaches such limitations because a project plan is equivalent to a tactic table. (Office Action dated November 27, 2001, ¶ 12). This, however, completely fails to teach "a tactic table operable to store at least one predefined tactic supported by the program office database **and a tactic type for each tactic.**" (emphasis added). Moreover, the project plan would be prescribing a change to itself – something that is not remotely contemplated by *Knudson*.

Claim 1 further recites, in part, "a tactic type to progress milestone category cross-reference table operable to map at least one progress milestone category to the at least one tactic type." But as just discussed, not only does *Knudson* fail to teach tactics, it fails to teach or suggest tactic types. Thus, it most assuredly fails to teach or suggest "a tactic type to progress milestone category cross-reference table operable to map at least one progress milestone category to the at least one tactic type."

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that *Knudson* fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the § 102 rejection thereof.

Claims 2, 4-8, 12, 16, 18-20, 23, and 30-31 depend from Claim 1, already shown to be allowable over *Knudson*. Furthermore, these claims contain additional limitations not taught by *Knudson*.

Claim 16, for example, specifies that "the data associated with translating progress milestones comprise a data table operable to map milestones predefined in a project to milestone categories predefined within the program office database." Nowhere, however, does *Knudson* describe milestone categories, much less a data table operable to map milestones predefined in a project to milestone categories predefined within the program office database. Applicants do note the Examiner's assertion that *Knudson* contains such teachings, (Detailed Action ¶ 2), but the portions of *Knudson* upon which the Examiner relies for this assertion at best teach that a project plan has a schedule comprised of tasks that are to be completed by

March 27, 2002. Thus, Applicants will not respond to the rejection thereof.

various users. (Figure 1; col. 11, lines 38-40, col. 12, lines 1-38). Thus, *Knudson* fails to teach all of the limitations of Claim 16.

As another example, Claim 18 specifies that "the financial data comprise: a project forecast table operable to store at least one current budget forecast amount for the project; and a project forecast history table operable to store an original budget forecast amount if it is different than the at least one current budget forecast amount." *Knudson*, however, fails to teach a budget forecast, much less a project forecast history table operable to store an original budget forecast amount if it is different than the at least one current budget forecast amount. Furthermore, the portions of *Knudson* that the Examiner's relies upon, (Detailed Action ¶ 2), merely teach preparing financial reports and controlling funding progress for projects (Figure 2; Figure 4; col. 1, lines 16-20; col. 2, lines 42-46; col. 4, lines 12-14; col. 11, lines 16-20). But again this fails to teach or suggest a budget forecast, much a project forecast history table operable to store an original budget forecast amount if it is different than the at least one current budget forecast amount. Thus, *Knudson* fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 18.

As a further example, Claim 30 specifies that "the program office database further comprises a transaction log table operable to record what changes were made to data stored in the program office database, who made the changes, and when the changes where made." Nowhere, however, does *Knudson* teach a transaction log table operable to record what changes were made to data stored in the program office database, who made the changes, and when the changes where made. Applicants do note the Examiner's assertion that *Knudson* contains such teachings, (Detailed Action ¶ 2), but the portions of *Knudson* upon which the Examiner relies merely teach a master database in which timesheets may be entered and a database containing personnel data. (Abstract; col. 2, lines 6-12; col. 3, lines 32-35). Thus, *Knudson* fails to teach all of the limitations of Claim 30.

For at least these reasons, and for the reasons given with respect to Claim 1, Applicants submit that *Knudson* does not teach all of the limitations of Claims 2, 4-8, 12, 16, 18-20, 23, and 30-31. Hence, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the § 102 rejection of these claims.

Claim 63 is another independent claim containing limitations that *Knudson* does not teach. For example, Claim 63, as amended, recites "a tactic table operable to store at least one predefined tactic supported by the program office database and a tactic type for each tactic, wherein the predefined tactic prescribes a change to a project." As discussed with respect to Claim 1, however, *Knudson* fails to teach such limitations. As another example, Claim 63 recites "a tactic type to progress milestone category cross-reference table operable to map at least one progress milestone category to the at least one tactic type." But again, as discussed with respect to Claim 1, *Knudson* fails to teach such limitations. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that *Knudson* cannot render Claim 63 unpatentable and, therefore, respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the § 102 rejection thereof.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 3 and 58 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Knudson* in view of Gary Hamel, et al. (*Hamel*). (Detailed Action ¶¶ 4, 11). The Examiner also rejects Claims 9, 13 and 14 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Knudson* in view of Bates William (*William*). (Detailed Action ¶ 5). Additionally, the Examiner rejects Claims 10, 15, 27, 32, 35, 38-40, 42, 44-47, 50, 57, and 60-62 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Knudson* in view of PMBK (*PMBK*). (Detailed Action ¶¶ 6, 9). Furthermore, the Examiner rejects Claims 24-26 and 28 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Knudson* in view of Bates William S (*William S*). (Detailed Action ¶ 7). In addition, the Examiner rejects Claim 29 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Knudson* in view of *William S* and *PMBK*. (Detailed Action ¶ 8). Furthermore, the Examiner rejects Claims 33 and 59 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Knudson* in view of *PMBK* and *William*. (Detailed Action ¶ 10). Applicants, however, disagree with these rejections.³

For a claim to be obvious in light of a combination of references, the references, when combined, must teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claim. (M.P.E.P. § 2142). Furthermore, there must be a motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to combine the references. (*Id.*). Accordingly, if references must be combined to teach or suggest all of a claim's

³ Applicants note that they canceled Claim 10 in the Request for Continued Examination mailed March 27, 2002. Thus, Applicants will not respond to the rejection thereof.

limitations, the fact that the references can be modified is, standing alone, insufficient to support an obviousness rejection, and the fact that the claimed invention is within the capabilities of one of ordinary skill in the art is, by itself, insufficient to support an obviousness rejection.

(M.P.E.P. § 2143.01). Moreover, if a claim contains at least one limitation that the combination fails to teach or suggest, the claim is not obvious in light of the references.

Claims 3, 9, 13-15, and 24-29 depend from Claim 1, already shown to be allowable. Furthermore, these claims include additional limitations to those of Claim 1 and that are not taught by the cited references.

Claim 27, for example, depends from Claim 1 and contains limitations that neither *Knudson* nor *PMBK* teaches or suggests. More specifically, Claim 27 specifies that "the program office database further comprises a user weight table operable to store a weight value indicative of importance for each system affected by the projects and programs," and the Examiner admits that *Knudson* fails to teach or suggest such limitations. (Detailed action ¶ 9). Furthermore, the portions of *PMBK* that the Examiner asserts teaches these limitations intimates nothing regarding a weight table, much less a user weight table operable to store a weight value indicative of importance for each system affected by the projects and programs. (Figures 1-1 – 7-1). Thus, the combination of *Knudson* and *PMBK* fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 27.

As another example, Claim 29 depends from Claim 1 and contains limitations that none of *Knudson*, *William S*, or *PMBK* teaches or suggest. Claim 29 specifies that "the project roadblock table comprises: roadblock type; date and time that the problem was encountered; and data on how and when the problem was resolved," and the Examiner explicitly recognizes that *Knudson* does not teach or suggest such limitations and implicitly recognizes that *William S* does not teach or suggest such limitations. (Detailed Action ¶ 8). Furthermore, the section of *PMBK* that the Examiner asserts teaches these limitations mentions nothing regarding project roadblocks, much less roadblock types, date and time that the problem was encountered, and data on how and when the problem was resolved. (PP 109). Thus, the combination of *Knudson*, *William S*, and *PMBK* fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 29.

For at least these reasons, and for the reasons given with respect to Claim 1, Applicants submit that the references fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claims 3, 9, 13-15, and 24-29. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the § 103 rejection thereof.

Claim 32 is an independent claim containing limitations that neither *Knudson* nor *PMBK* teaches or suggests. For example, Claim 32, as amended, recites "storing and accessing a tactic table having at least one predefined tactic supported by the program office database, wherein the predefined tactic prescribes a change to a project." As discussed with respect to Claim 1, however, nowhere does *Knudson* teach or suggest such limitations. Furthermore, *PMBK* contains no such teachings or suggestions. Additionally, Claim 32 recites "storing and accessing a tactic type to milestone category cross-reference table associating the at least one milestone category to the at least one tactic type." But again, as discussed with respect to Claim 1, nowhere does *Knudson* teach or suggest such limitations, and *PMBK* contains no such teachings or suggestions. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Claim 32 contains limitations not taught or suggested by either *Knudson* or *PMBK*. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the § 103 rejection of this claim.

Claims 33, 35, 38-40, 42, 44-47, 50, 57-62 depend from Claim 32, already shown to be allowable. Furthermore, these claims contain additional limitations that the cited references fail to teach or suggest.

Claim 44, for example, depends from Claim 32 and contains limitations that neither *Knudson* nor *PMBK* teaches or suggests. Claim 44 recites "storing and accessing a data table associating a milestone to the at least one tactic." As discussed with respect to Claim 16, however, nowhere does *Knudson* teach or suggest such limitations. Additionally, the Examiner provides no basis for concluding that *PMBK* contains such teachings or suggestions. (Detailed Action ¶ 9). Thus, the combination of *Knudson* and *PMBK* fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 44.

As another example, Claim 45 depends from Claim 32 and contains limitations that neither *Knudson* nor *PMBK* teaches or suggests. Claim 45 specifies that "storing and accessing the financial data comprise: storing and accessing a project forecast table having at least one

current budget forecast amount for the project; and storing and accessing a project forecast history table operable to store an initial budget forecast amount if it is different than the at least one current budget forecast amount." As discussed with respect to Claim 27, however, nowhere does either *Knudson* or *PMBK* teach or suggest such limitations.

As an additional example, Claim 57 depends from Claim 32 and contains limitation that neither *Knudson* nor *PMBK* teaches or suggest. Claim 57 recites "storing and accessing a transaction log table having what changes were made to data stored in the program office database, who made the changes, and when the changes where made." As discussed with respect to Claim 30, however, nowhere does *Knudson* teach or suggest such limitations. Additionally, the Examiner provides no basis for finding that the limitations are taught or suggested by *PMBK*. (Detailed Action ¶ 9). Therefore, the combination of *Knudson* and *PMBK* fails to teach or suggest such limitations.

For at least these reasons, and for the reasons given with respect to Claim 32, Applicants submit that Claims 33, 35, 38-40, 42, 44-47, 50, 57-62 contain limitations that the cited references fails to teach or suggest. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the § 103 rejection of these claims.

Conclusion

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-9, 12-16, 18-35, 37-42, and 44-63.

Although Applicants believe that no other fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-0765 of Electronic Data Systems Corporation.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this application, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call its attorney at the number listed below.

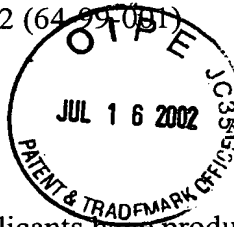
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Attachment A – Marked-Up Claims

Applicants have produced a marked-up version of the amended claims below. For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicants have also included the non-amended claims. Please amend the claims as follows.

1. **(Four Times Amended)** A program office management system, comprising:
a program office database storing:
informational data associated with accounts, projects, and programs;
financial data associated with the accounts, projects, and programs;
schedule and progress data associated with the accounts, projects, and programs;
data associated with personnel, roles, and security access information thereof;
[data associated with the security access information comprising definitions of an hierarchy of roles having increasing degrees of access and functionality to the data in the program office database, wherein personnel have at least one assigned role relevant to at least one of the projects;
wherein at least one of the roles comprises a role of program manager, the role of program manager having authority to add and update project and account data for a respective business unit, assign an update authorization level to personnel, and view project schedule progress data in all business units;]
a tactic table operable to store at least one predefined tactic supported by the program office database and a tactic type for each tactic, **wherein the predefined tactic prescribes a change to a project;**
a tactic type to progress milestone category cross-reference table operable to map at least one progress milestone category to the at least one tactic type; and
update data associated with the progress, actual expenditures, and labor resources of the projects and programs;
at least one user interface operable to display data stored in the program office according to a predetermined security scheme based on the security access information stored in the program office database, and further operable to receive the update data on a periodic basis.
2. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the program office database comprises a plurality of relational data structures.

3. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the at least one user interface comprises at least one web-based user interface.

4. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the at least one user interface comprises at least one self-extracting executable user interface.

5. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the at least one user interface comprises at least one program office interface.

6. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the program office database comprises more than one copy of the data residing in more than one distributed databases.

7. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the user interface comprises more than one copy of the user interface residing in more than one distributed computing system.

8. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the data associated with security access information of personnel comprise an assignment table associating a person to at least one role defined within a business unit.

9. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the data associated with security access information of personnel comprise an assignment table associating a person to at least one role defined within a business unit, and further to at least one predefined update authority level set by a person having a senior management role within the business unit.

10. Claim 10 was previously canceled.

11. Claim 11 was previously canceled.

12. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the data associated with security access information of personnel comprise a role definition of a coordinator having authorization to assign one or more persons to the at least one business unit, assign at least one role to each person, and add projects and accounts for the at least one business unit.

13. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the data associated with security access information of personnel comprise a role definition of an account manager capable of having authorization to update account data and project data.

14. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the data associated with security access information of personnel comprise a role definition of a project manager capable of having authorization to update project data.

15. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the data associated with security access information of personnel comprise a role table operable to store at least one valid role and an authorization hierarchical organization of the at least one valid role.

16. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the data associated with translating progress milestones comprise a data table operable to map milestones predefined in a project to milestone categories predefined within the program office database.

17. Claim 17 was previously cancelled.

18. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the financial data comprise:
a project forecast table operable to store at least one current budget forecast amount for the project; and
a project forecast history table operable to store an original budget forecast amount if it is different than the at least one current budget forecast amount.

19. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the financial data comprise:
an account forecast table operable to store at least one revenue and expense budget amount associated with an account; and
an account actual table operable to store at least one revenue and expense actual amount associated with the account.

20. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the informational data comprise a project table operable to store informational data associated with at least one project identified by a project identifier.

21. The system, as set forth in Claim 20, wherein the project table comprises:
a project identifier uniquely identifying each project;
a business unit identifier of a business unit to which the project belongs to;
at least one person identifier of a person assigned a role having a predetermined responsibility for the project; and
a status flag indicative of whether the project is active, pending, or inactive.

22. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the information data include an account table comprising:
an account identifier uniquely identifying each account;
a business unit identifier of a business unit to which the account belongs to; and
a person identifier of a person assigned the role of an account manager for the account.

23. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the schedule and progress data comprise a milestone actual table operable to store an amount of progress into a specific milestone for a given period for a project.

24. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the schedule and progress data comprise:
a project identifier of a project;
a milestone defined for the project;
a reporting period; and
a percentage completion value of the milestone in the reporting period independent of forecast or actuals.

25. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the update data comprise:
a project actual table operable to store actual expenditure amounts spent during a specific reporting period for a project; and
a milestone actual table operable to store a percentage completion value of a specific milestone defined for a project during the specific reporting period.

26. The system, as set forth in Claim 24, wherein the update data further comprise an account actual table operable to store actual expenditure amounts spent during the specific reporting period for an account.

27. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the program office database further comprises a user weight table operable to store a weight value indicative of importance for each system affected by the projects and programs.

28. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the program office database further comprises a project roadblock table operable to store information about a problem encountered in a project identified by a project identifier and to enable escalated reporting to upper management about unresolved problems.

29. The system, as set forth in Claim 28, wherein the project roadblock table comprises:
roadblock type;
date and time that the problem was encountered; and
data on how and when the problem was resolved.

30. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the program office database further comprises a transaction log table operable to record what changes were made to data stored in the program office database, who made the changes, and when the changes were made.

31. The system, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the program office database comprises required data, audit data, program objective specific data, and optional data.

32. **(Four Times Amended)** A method of managing a program office, comprising:

- storing and accessing data associated with at least one project in a program office database, including informational data, financial data, schedule and progress data associated with the at least one project;
- storing update data associated with the at least one project;
- identifying persons associated with the at least one project, defining a role hierarchy having roles associated with increasing levels of data access, assigning at least one role relevant to the at least one project to each person, and storing data associated with the persons and their assigned roles in the program office database;

[wherein assigning at least one role comprises assigning a role of program manager, a role having authority to add and update project and account data for a respective business unit, assign an update authorization level to each person, and view project schedule progress data in all business units;]

- storing and accessing a tactic table having at least one predefined tactic supported by the program office database, **wherein the predefined tactic prescribes a change to a project;**
- storing and accessing a tactic type table having at least one valid tactic type;
- storing and accessing a milestone category table having at least one category of milestones; and
- storing and accessing a tactic type to milestone category cross-reference table associating the at least one milestone category to the at least one tactic type.

33. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, wherein identifying persons further comprises assigning an update authorization level to each person by a person having a senior management role.

34. The method, as set forth in Claim 33, further comprising restricting and permitting viewing, changing and adding data in the program office database according to the assigned role to each person, rules defined in the program office database, and update authorization level assigned to each person.

35. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, wherein assigning at least one role comprises assigning at least one role from the role hierarchy to each person, the roles having increasing capability to access and modify program office database data.

36. Claim 36 was previously canceled.

37. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, wherein assigning at least one role comprises assigning a role of coordinator, a role having authority to add people for a respective business unit, assign some roles to people, and add projects and accounts of a business unit.

38. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, wherein assigning at least one role comprises assigning a role of account manager, a role capable of having authority to update project and account data for a respective account.

39. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, wherein assigning at least one role comprises assigning a role of project manager, a role capable having authority to update project data for a respective project.

41. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, wherein storing and accessing data comprise storing and accessing data stored in at least one relational database.

41. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, wherein storing and accessing data associated with the persons and their assigned roles comprise:

storing and accessing an assignment table associating a person identifier to at least one role defined within a specific business unit; and

granting at least one predefined update authority to the person identifier by a person having a predetermined upper management role.

42. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, wherein storing and accessing data associated with the persons and their assigned roles comprise storing and accessing a role table having at least one valid role and an authorization hierarchical organization of the at least one valid role.

43. Claim 43 was previously cancelled.

44. The method, as set forth in Claim 32 further comprising storing and accessing a data table associating a milestone to the at least one tactic.

45. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, wherein storing and accessing the financial data comprise:

storing and accessing a project forecast table having at least one current budget forecast amount for the project; and

storing and accessing a project forecast history table operable to store an initial budget forecast amount if it is different than the at least one current budget forecast amount.

46. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, wherein storing and accessing the financial data comprise:

storing and accessing an account forecast table operable to store at least one revenue and expense budget amount associated with an account; and

storing and accessing an account actual table operable to store at least one revenue and expense actual amount associated with the account.

47. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, wherein storing and accessing the informational data comprise:

storing and accessing a project table operable to store informational data associated with at least one project identified by a project identifier; and

storing and accessing an account table operable to store informational data associated with at least one account identified by an account identifier.

48. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, wherein storing and accessing the project table comprise:

storing a project identifier uniquely identifying each project and using the project identifier as a primary key to the project table;

storing and accessing a business unit identifier of a business unit to which the project belongs to;

storing and accessing a person identifier of a person assigned at least one role for the project; and

storing and accessing a status flag indicative of whether the project is active, pending, or inactive.

49. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, wherein storing and accessing the account table comprise:

storing and accessing an account identifier uniquely identifying each account;

storing and accessing a business unit identifier of a business unit to which the account belongs to; and

storing and accessing a person identifier of a person assigned the role of an account manager for the account.

50. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, wherein storing and accessing the schedule and progress data comprise storing and accessing a milestone actual table having an amount of progress into a specific milestone for a given period for a project.

51. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, wherein storing and accessing the schedule and progress data comprise:

storing and accessing a project identifier of a project;

storing and accessing a milestone defined for the project;

storing and accessing a reporting period; and

storing and accessing a percentage completion value of the milestone in the reporting period.

52. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, wherein storing and accessing the update data comprise:

storing and accessing a project actual table having actual expenditure amounts spent during a specific reporting period for a project; and

storing and accessing a milestone actual table having a percentage completion value of a specific milestone defined for a project during the specific reporting period.

53. The method, as set forth in Claim 52, wherein storing and accessing the update data further comprise storing and accessing an account actual table having actual expenditure amounts spent during the specific reporting period for an account.

54. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, further comprising storing and accessing a user weight table having a weight value indicative of importance for each system affected by the projects and programs.

55. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, further comprising:
storing and accessing a project roadblock table having information about a problem encountered in a project identified by a project identifier; and
reporting any problem to management unresolved after a predetermined time period.

56. The method, as set forth in Claim 55, wherein storing and accessing the project roadblock table comprise:

storing and accessing a roadblock type;

storing and accessing a date and time that the problem was encountered; and

storing and accessing data on how and when the problem was resolved.

57. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, further comprising storing and accessing a transaction log table having what changes were made to data stored in the program office database, who made the changes, and when the changes were made.

58. The method, as set forth in Claim 33, wherein storing and accessing the data comprise storing and accessing data via a web browser-based user interface implementing a security scheme using the role and update authorization level assignment to the users.

59. The method, as set forth in Claim 33, wherein storing and accessing update data comprise storing the update data via a self-extracting spread sheet-based user interface implementing a security scheme using the role and update authorization level assignment to the users.

60. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, further comprising:
retrieving data from at least one other data source; and
verifying data in the program office database with the data from the at least one other data source.

61. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, further comprising:
retrieving data from at least one project management tool; and
using the data from the at least one project management tool in views, reports, and audits.

62. The method, as set forth in Claim 32, further comprising:
retrieving data from at least one project management tool; and
storing the data from the at least one project management tool in the program office database.

63. **(Three Times Amended)** A system for managing at least one program including a plurality of projects, comprising:

at least one program office database storing:

informational data associated with projects and programs;

financial data associated with the projects, and programs;

schedule and progress data associated with the projects, and programs;

personnel data associated with persons having responsibility associated with the projects and programs, the personnel data including a unique person identifier for each person;

security data having an assignment of at least one role to each person and an assignment of at least one update authorization to certain persons having oversight responsibility;

[wherein the security data further defines an hierarchy of the roles having increasing degrees of access and functionality to the data in the program office database, wherein each person has at least one assigned role relevant to at least one of the projects;

wherein at least one of the roles comprises a role of program manager, the role of program manager having authority to add and update project and account data for a respective business unit, assign an update authorization level to each person, and view project schedule progress data in all business units;]

a tactic table operable to store at least one predefined tactic supported by the program office database and a tactic type for each tactic, wherein the predefined tactic prescribes a change to a project;

a tactic type to progress milestone category cross-reference table operable to map at least one progress milestone category to the at least one tactic type; and

update data associated with the progress, actual expenditures, and labor resources of the projects and programs;

at least one user interface operable to display and allow access to the data stored in the program office according to a predetermined security scheme based on the person identifier, role and update authorization assignment stored in the at least one program office database, and further operable to receive the update data on a periodic basis.